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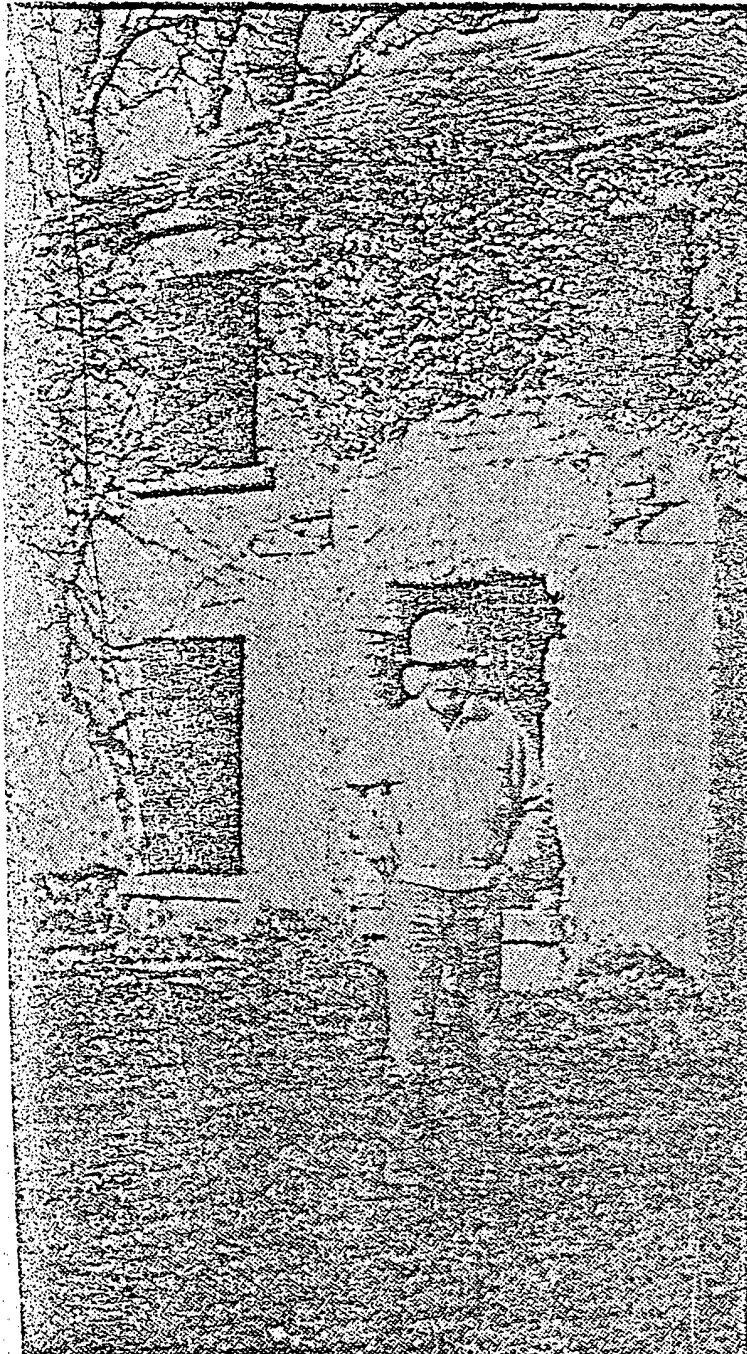
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Mike Burke: A Happy Yank in Ireland

By MARTIN O'SHEA

Special to The New York Times



Michael Burke at
Madison Square
Garden in 1977,
below, and in
Aughrim, Ireland,
some days ago.



AUGHRIM, Ireland — The main road from Dublin to Galway covers 135 miles and wends its way through a few towns and many more small — even minuscule — villages.

Aughrim is one of those minuscule villages. It has 6,500 acres with a population of 800, and is situated five miles south of the town of Ballinasloe and 35 miles east of the city of Galway.

Five hundred of the acres are owned by Michael Burke — the same Michael Burke who epitomized New York for a generation of sports fans; the same Michael Burke who has brought his mod mannerisms and fashionable flair to a village that became historically important to this country because of a battle fought in it on July 12, 1691.

Not very much of importance has happened in Aughrim since then, although villagers still remember the visit eight years ago by Senator Edward M. Kennedy as big news.

Cottage Is Now Home

Aughrim is also the place Michael Burke, who has fought a few battles of his own, now calls home. The man who helped rebuild "The House That Ruth Built" and who was quite comfortable in the executive offices of Madison Square Garden Center as its president, now feels very much at home in a five-room cottage.

To get to Burke's cottage, a visitor must turn off the Galway-Dublin road at the Aughrim Lodge, which has a neon sign above the entrance that reads: "Sen. Ted Kennedy & Ted Junior Visited on July 1st 1974."

Once past the lodge, it is easy to find Burke's home. "Just go through our Times Square," he instructs, and continue along the road to the first cottage on the right. Aughrim's Times Square is easy enough to locate; it is where three roads intersect. The Hynes Lounge Bar is on one corner, St. Catherine's Roman Catholic Church is on another and there is a sign at the intersection pointing to Kilconnel, which is four and a half miles north.

Burke has owned the farm, called Northbrook, for 12 years and before he

The New York Times/Catherine O'Mahony-O'Shea

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